

# **USDA Foreign Agricultural Service**

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# Thailand Grain and Feed Weekly Rice Price Update 2007

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### **Report Highlights:**

Export prices for premium- and medium-grade white rice were steady this week following a global rice market and unchanged exchange rates over the past week. Meanwhile, low-grade white rice prices continued to increase.

Includes PSD Changes: No Includes Trade Matrix: No Trade Report Bangkok [TH1]

### **Indicative Prices (Week Ending Sep. 30):**

| Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)                     |                       |     |     |     |     |     |             |     |      |
|---|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|-----|------|
|   | Exporter Observations |     |     |     |     |     | Period Avg. |     |      |
|   | #1                    | #2  | #3  | #4  | #5  | #6  | #7          | CUR | PRV. |
|   |                       |     |     |     |     |     |             | •   |      |
| F WR 100 B  | 560                   | 572 | 550 | 555 | 580 | 540 | 550         | 558 | 560  |
| WR 100 B  | 329                   | 332 | 340 | 332 | 325 | 331 | 332         | 332 | 331  |
| PB 5%   | 320                   | 340 | 337 | 331 | 326 | 334 | 325         | 330 | 330  |
| WR 5%   | 320                   | 327 | 336 | 327 | 320 | 323 | 327         | 326 | 325  |
| WR 10%  | 315                   | 322 | 332 | 321 | 317 | 320 | 322         | 321 | 320  |
| WR 15%  | 312                   | 317 | 328 | 315 | 314 | 315 | 317         | 317 | 315  |
| WR 25%  | 305                   | 303 | -   | 312 | 310 | 309 | 312         | 309 | 307  |
| WR 35%  | 303                   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 305 | -           | 304 | 303  |
| A 1 SUP   | 282                   | -   | -   | 267 | 280 | 286 | 279         | 279 | 276  |
| A 1 SPEC  | 279                   | -   | -   | 264 | 277 | -   | 276         | 274 | 271  |
| Source: Average actual prices received from exporters, Exchange rate: 34.06 baht/U.S.\$ |                       |     |     |     |     |     |             |     |      |

# **Market Tone**

According to trade sources, export prices for premium- and medium-grade white rice were steady this week following a global rice market and unchanged exchange rates over the past week. Meanwhile, low-grade white rice prices continued to increase because its domestic supplies are tight and its demand are high following a commitment to export 25-35% grade rice to Indonesia and Philippines.

Regarding Indonesia's latest rice tender (50,000 tons), a Thai trading company won on 5% white rice at USD 368.87/ton (30,000 tons) while Troepfer International took the other two slots of 10% white rice and 15% white rices at the quotations of USD 362.24/ton (10,000 tons) and USD 357.16/ton (10,000 tons), respectively. Trade sources believe that rice prices should soften in the near future in response to an influx of the large old-crop stocks released by the Royal Thai Government (RTG). At the moment, the RTG plans to sell 821,394 tons of rice stocks on a tender basis, which are divided into 376,333 tons of fragrant rice and 445,061 tons of white rice.

The following are the reported rice exports (as is basis):

| WEEK   | QUANTITY | 4-WK AVG | YEAR TO | YEAR AGO | YEAR TO   |
|--------|----------|----------|---------|----------|-----------|
| ENDING |          |          | DATE    |          | DATE AS % |
|        |          |          |         |          | OF LAST   |
|        |          |          |         |          | YEAR      |
|        | (MT)     | (MT)     | (TMT)   | (TMT)    | %         |
| AUG 12 | 100,989  | 94,000   | 3,180   | 2,913    | 9.2       |
| AUG 19 | 91,788   | 92,491   | 3,272   | 2,993    | 9.3       |
| AUG 26 | 96,115   | 93,248   | 3,368   | 3,095    | 8.8       |
| SEP 2  | 90,589   | 94,870   | 3,459   | 3,173    | 9.0       |
| SEP 9  | 141,815  | 105,077  | 3,600   | 3,269    | 10.1      |
| SEP 16 | 149,864  | 119,596  | 3,750   | 3,383    | 10.9      |
| SEP 23 | 151,993  | 133,565  | 3,902   | 3,494    | 11.7      |
| SEP 30 | 191,059  | 158,682  | 4,093   | 3,577    | 14.4      |

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for Sep. 24-30, 2007 totaled 191,059 tons, up 39,066 tons from the previous week's total, and up 32,377 tons from the four-week moving average of 158,682 tons. Export during Jan. 1 – Sep. 30, 2007 totaled 4,093,376 tons, as compared with 3,577,763 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1 – Sep. 26, 2007, amounted to 6,033,851 tons, up 13.4 percent from 5,322,685 tons in the previous year.

### Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Sep. 10-14, Sep. 17-21, and Sep. 24-28, 2007 are as follows:

| Movement (MT)      | Sep. 10-14 | Sep. 17-21 | Sep 24-28 |
|--------------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Weekly sales       | 193,359    | 187,663    | 208,758   |
| 4 week sum         | 529,321    | 663,912    | 764,298   |
| 4 week mov. avg.   | 132,330    | 165,978    | 191,072   |
| Total weekly sales | 4,018,832  | 4,206,495  | 4,415,253 |

End of Report.